

Home & Middle East News

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 1995

Turkey's Alawites caught in violence

ISTANBUL (Agencies) — Turkey's Alawite population is a progressive Islamic group that has supported democracy and secularism.

Two Alawites were killed Sunday in a low-income neighbourhood following armed attacks on four coffee-houses and a bakery frequented by the community. Eight others died Monday during clashes with police when angry protesters took to the streets to protest what they claimed was lack of support from security forces.

The latest incidents came nearly two years after a deadly attack on Alawites raised sectarian tensions in the country. Thirty-seven people were killed when Muslim radicals set fire to a hotel, where a group of writers, poets and singers were staying to celebrate an Alawite festival in the central city of Sivas in July 1993.

The most dramatic sectarian fighting was in 1978 when 104 people died in street fighting between Alawites and Sunni radicals in the eastern Kahramanmaraş province.

Sunni radicals have been reviving dormant sectarian feelings between the Sunnis and Alawites.

Alawites are considered a liberal group, associated with leftist or social democratic movements.

Further confrontations erupted between the Alawite community and radical Muslims after a fundamentalist party won the mayoralty twice in local elections last year.

Alawites are traced to Anatolian Shiites, who were direct descendants of Central Asian Turks. The name is derived from an early Islamic leader, Ali.

The Anatolian Alawites maintained some of the characteristics of "shamanism," the original religion of Central Asian tribes rather than the complete Islamic dogma of the Sunnis.

But for centuries the two denominations lived side by side in peace, even though the Sunnis looked upon the Alawites as heretics. Both sides largely avoided intermarriage and in most cases kept to separate neighbourhoods.

Alawites make up a third of Turkey's 60 million population.

After the emergency meeting, the cabinet issued a

statement saying, "our citizens should not allow themselves to be provoked. The attacks are targeting our national unity, peace, democracy and the secular state."

"The authors of the attacks will certainly be found," it added.

The rioting started late on Sunday when Alawites marched through the streets to protest an attack by gunmen who killed two people and wounded 15 in a drive-by shooting on Alawite coffee-shops.

In the rioting that followed up to three people were killed and 26 injured, including 11 policemen.

Early on Monday protesters started to regroup, chanting "Death to fascism" and "Police are murderers" as they marched towards hundreds of police and gendarmes at the end of the main street.

Many rioters were Alawite Kurds from southeast Turkey, where a 10-year war by separatist Kurdish guerrillas has led to allegations of massive abuses by security forces.

During three tense hours the two sides faced each other across a row of armoured personnel carriers, the sound of gunfire — its origin unclear — occasionally echoing through the area.

Protesters, among them women and teenagers, refused to heed security personnel who tried to persuade them to disperse and some teenagers hurled petrol bombs at police.

Police stormed the crowd after young men climbed on an armoured car and opened a high pressure water hose.

Shooting their guns from shoulder level, police chased demonstrators, who ran into narrow sidestreets.

After both sides regrouped, police opened fire again, this time storming the area from both sides.

"They will try and blame us on the Kurdish guerrillas," saying they provoked the attack, but it was the police who tried to kill us," said a 17-year-old boy, his hands bloody from carrying a wounded friend.

Turkish television reported eight dead on Monday after clashes on Sunday that killed up to three people.

Ambulances loaded up people whose faces and arms dripped with blood while police searched the area. An occasional gunshot echoed through emptying streets.

An elderly woman in tears said: "We give our sons to the military, we pay taxes and this is how they repay us."

"Rawandiz is suffering



MAJOR IN GAZA: Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat (left) greets British Prime Minister John Major at the Belvoir crossing point between Israel and the Gaza Strip since it became autonomous (see page one) (AFP photo)

Kurd factionalism hits anti-Saddam effort

RAWANDIZ, Iraq (R) —

The hilltop town of Rawandiz, tucked into northern Iraq near the Turkish and Iranian borders, has felt the full fury of the Kurdish factionalism that threatens to unravel their coalition against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

On the eve of Monday's Security Council vote on extending U.N. sanctions against Baghdad, the town has emerged as the latest flashpoint for the Kurdish rivalries tearing at Western Iraq.

The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) controls Rawandiz from the heights, but the town is being slowly strangled by surrounding Peshmerga guerrillas of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), freshly allied with the pro-Iraqi Kurdish Hizbullah.

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"Rawandiz is suffering

from three embargos — the embargo of the U.N., the embargo of Saddam Hussein and the embargo of the KDP," said Saman Salihdin Sinjari, who got KDP permission to deliver U.N. polio vaccine to the town hospital at the weekend.

The hospital director keeps an impressive collection of spent shells and fragments of Katyusha rockets swept up each morning from the hospital grounds. One shell pierced the ceiling of the women's ward scattering plaster and shattering all windows.

The stand-off at Rawandiz and other points in northern Iraq reflect the deep-seated rivalries that have long plagued Kurdish political aspirations.

But the recent upsurge in fighting amongst the Kurds looks likely to drain the internal anti-Saddam effort of much of its impetus, four years after Iraq's defeat in the Gulf war sparked anti-Saddam rebellions in the Kurdish north and the largely Shi'ite south. The north is protected by the Western air power of Operation Provide Comfort, based in southern

Turkey.

"This (fighting) has severely damaged the international credibility of the Kurds," said an official of the Iraqi National Congress (INC) which groups all major Kurdish and Arab opposition to President Saddam, including the PUK and the KDP.

"The (Iraqi) people are fed up, the donors are not happy.

The international aid effort is not what it was one or two years ago," the official said in an interview in Erbil, the administrative centre of northern Iraq.

He fears this week's expected agreement to extend U.N. sanctions for another 60 days could be one of the last.

Already, pressure is mounting on Washington and London to ease their demands that the embargo imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait be kept in place.

Tension between the two main Kurdish guerrilla groups has existed since the mid-1980s.

At the heart of their latest squabble is the PUK's occupation in January of Erbil, meant to be the shared regional capital, and the KDP's control over the "tax"

on Turkish truck drivers crossing Kurdish lines to trade food and medicine in Mosul for limited quantities of Iraqi petrol.

Each side accuses the other of embezzling public funds.

A bombing campaign inside KDP-held territory, seen by some Kurds and foreign observers as PUK handiwork, has further aggravated tensions. Would-he mediators, including the INC, say the two sides are not even talking.

Foreign observers note the Kurdish disarray means they are a long way from taking on a well-equipped Iraqi army whose strength is estimated at 350,000 troops.

"They're going to take the Mosul-Baghdad highway — and secure it?" sceptically asked a senior U.N. official in the region.

He said the two top Kurdish factions could likely field no more than 10,000 fighters each, with the INC having another 2,000 or so lightly-armed Arab fighters.

And fielding even such a modest force against Iraqi troops would require a level of unity unthinkable under the present circumstances.

Iraqis suffer with expensive food, shortages of medicine

By Eileen Alt Powell
The Associated Press

DAMASCUS — The growing stacks of used furniture at the Alarar market in downtown Baghdad attest to the desperation of Iraqi families trying to make ends meet.

They carry in dining room sets, sofas, writing desks — even the occasional kitchen sink — to auction off for badly needed cash.

"Even if we work very hard, it won't give me enough money for my family," said Badr Ajil, a 39-year-old day labourer, as he stood beside a wooden cupboard he wanted to sell. "We need money to eat and buy medicine."

Thousands are in trouble as runaway inflation pushes food prices up almost daily while the value of the Iraqi dinar plummets.

Hospitals are so critically short of medicine that many people go untreated. Pharmacies are overwhelmed with patients desperate for such life-sustaining drugs as insulin for diabetes or inhalers for asthma.

Children go to school without books, paper or pencils.

The root of the problem is the U.N. Security Council sanctions, imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

The embargo prohibits Iraq from exporting oil, its economic mainstay, until it has complied with U.N. cease-fire resolutions to dismantle its weapons of mass destruction.

The political rhetoric means little to Ajil, who has a wife, mother and seven children to feed.

His monthly income of about 10,000 Iraqi dinars is worth about \$9 at the black-market rate, and barely covers the cost of food for a week, he says.

Iraq says it has complied with all the U.N. demands

and that the embargo should be lifted. But the United States believes it has the votes to maintain the sanctions, charging that Iraq has not revealed all the necessary information about its weaponry.

Iraq has been offered a one-time sale of oil worth \$1.6 billion to raise funds for humanitarian use, but it has refused on the grounds that the U.N.-supervised deal would infringe on its sovereignty.

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The "official" exchange rate of \$3.3 to the dinar is now totally ignored.

The dinar has depreciated from about eight to the dollar after the Gulf war to 300 six months ago to 1,100 now.

Food prices, meanwhile, have risen so high that the average family eats no meat.

The government's ration programme of flour, sugar, cooking oil, rice and tea does not begin to provide minimum nutrition.

Doctors say that many mothers are so malnourished that they cannot breastfeed their babies. Powdered milk at 2,750 Iraqi dinars (\$2.50) is out of reach, so infants are fed sugar water and quickly develop signs of both protein and vitamin deficiencies.

Zahra Karim, a 50-year-old widow, was buying lettuce, tomatoes and potatoes for Sunday dinner at the

Salami Square outdoor vegetable market.

She has not been able to afford meat or fish for months, and vegetables are becoming dear.

In just the last six months, the price of a kilogramme of tomatoes has tripled to 400 dinars (36 cents), while fish and lentils have doubled to 500 dinars (45 cents).

"I just hope that the prices go down and the sanctions lift," she said.

She has been selling not only furniture but also clothing to supplement her pension of 1,000 dinars (91 cents) a month.

At the nearby Saddam Children's Hospital, Iraq's largest, doctors are at a loss to provide adequate treatment.

Medication is in such short supply that "we give according

to what we have, not according to what the patient needs," said Dr. Ismail Qassem, the hospital director.

They can do nothing for leukaemia and other cancers and often have no antibiotics to treat children suffering from pneumonia, meningitis or other diseases.

The hospital staff sees 100 children a day suffering from malnutrition, and the death rate has tripled since the Gulf war, Dr. Qassem said.

In the emergency room on Sunday, four-month-old Ali Shaker was panting in his tiny oxygen mask. Doctors had given him a drug to ease the effects of pneumonia, but lacked the necessary antibiotic for proper care.

"We're giving him oxygen and praying God will help him," said staff physician Mohammad Maher.

PEACE TIMES

Fair (Sunrise) Dhuhr

11:45 Dhuhr

Asr Maghrib

17:47 Isha

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Khamis weather conditions will prevail throughout the day with winds southwesterly moderate. A cold front will affect the Kingdom in the evening and will be expected in different regions.

In Asaba, it will be relatively warm and dusty becoming cloudy and rainy in the afternoon.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 10/23

Agaba 13/28

Deserts 7/25

Jordan Valley 13/27

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Electric Power 81565

Water Authority 580700

Jordan Electricity Authority 587632

ZARQA: Dr. Farwah Hamidah 903644

Khalidh pharmacy 985417

Amman Catholic Church Tel. 771311

Amman Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Amman International Church Tel. 652526

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 657597

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771311

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Tel. 810740

Archdiocese of God Church, Tel. 633785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 674400

St. George Church Tel. 661757

Torresanta Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541



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Britain to withdraw first 700 troops from Northern Ireland

'Clinton will not press Adams to dismantle IRA arsenal'

LONDON (AFP) — Britain Tuesday said it was withdrawing 700 of its 19,000 troops stationed in Northern Ireland, a gesture seen as symbolic of reduced tensions in the province resulting from six months of truce.

"This decision has been taken solely on the basis of the operational judgment of the security forces' commanders," said Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew. "It reflects the improved security situation and is a further step towards normality."

Although small compared with the total British troops strength in Ulster, the withdrawal of 700 represents the largest in over a decade and the first withdrawal officially announced in the 25-year sectarian conflict.

The move will cut the number of major units in Ulster to 17 — six resident battalions on two-year tours, and six battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment.

The 700 men of Fifth Regiment Royal Artillery, scheduled to complete their six-month tour of duty this month, will be withdrawn to Britain over the next two weeks from their bases in counties Tyrone and Armagh, the government said.

Spain imposes visas for Canadians

MADRID (R) — Spain said Tuesday it was imposing visas on Canadian tourists in retaliation for their country's seizure of a Spanish fishing vessel in the North Atlantic last week.

The measure had already been mooted Monday by Foreign Minister Javier Solana as one of Spain's options in the fishing dispute which has provoked a major diplomatic row between the European Union and Canada.

"We have decided to impose this," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. He added that legal steps to reintroduce visa requirements for Canadians, which had long been lifted, would take at least three or four days to complete.

The Galician trawler Estai

was seized by Canadian gunboats after a five-hour chase last Thursday while it was fishing for Greenland halibut in international waters and taken to port in St. John's, Newfoundland.

The Estai's captain Enrique Davila has been charged with illegal fishing and resisting Canadian authorities. He was due to appear in court in St. John's later Tuesday.

France ties Cambodia aid to reforms

PARIS (R) — French Economy Minister Edmond Alphandery opening a meeting of Cambodia's aid donors, called Tuesday for more help to Phnom Penh but tied his appeal to the restoring of law and order in the South East Asian country.

Referring to the decision of the Paris Club of debtor nations to wipe out two-thirds of Cambodia's external debt, Mr. Alphandery said: "Solidarity expressed by the international community towards Cambodia must lead to concrete results."

"If Cambodia needs exter-

nal help more than ever, be it state aid or private investments, it must resolve and quickly set up an institutional and judicial framework which is respected by all parties," he said in a speech.

Aid donors meet in Paris until Wednesday for the third international conference on Cambodia's reconstruction. The country, devastated by two decades of war, has an external debt of more than \$1.3 billion and a growing trade deficit.

"France urges the Cambodian government to rapidly pass laws governing civil rights, the penal code and

banking. This will show the international community that it will actively pursue reforms which are vital for law and order," Mr. Alphandery said.

He singled out reforms protecting foreign investors' assets, privatisations and cuts in the number of state employees.

Last year France was Cambodia's biggest donor with \$40 million, behind Japan (\$91 million) and ahead of the United States (\$30 million). French officials said the conference would yield less than last year's \$773 million in aid.

U.S. veterans descend on Iwo Jima for 50th anniversary memorial

IWO JIMA, Japan (AP) — American and Japanese soldiers and sailors who 50 years ago fought one of the most ferocious battles of World War II returned Tuesday to this island whose name has become synonymous with war.

This time, they were here to remember, not to fight. Chester Foulke, 71, of Las Vegas, Nevada, came ashore in an assault landing 50 years ago. This time he arrived by a chartered 727 from Saipan.

"I have no qualms about coming here again," he said. "You have good memories and bad memories. You have to deal with them both."

In 36 days of fighting on the ground that began on Feb. 19, 1945, 6,821 Americans and most of the 22,000 Japanese who tried to defend the tiny Pacific island of two Jima were killed. Only 1,083 Japanese survived.

Some 880 U.S. veterans of the battle and their families met 110 Japanese survivors late in the morning. Together, they sat on folding chairs on the tropical beach where the battle had raged and listened to speeches from both sides remembering the pain of the battle.

Many chatted amiably, but some had mixed feelings about being there.

"Nearly all of my subordinates died," Kenichi Yosabiku, 77, a former Japanese officer, told the Kyodo News Service. "I cannot but feel doubts about the joint memorial service between Japan and the United States, but I decided to attend."

"I still feel a little funny," said Charles Lindberg, 71, also a veteran of the 5th Marine Division. "But those things, well, you have to let go of them. Maybe meeting

them will help."

Most of the U.S. veterans wore street clothes, but a few were in full dress uniform. Some sported white commemorative caps and matching T-shirts. A few bad medals pinned to their chests.

Most of the Japanese veterans dressed more formally, in jackets and ties. Some wore navy blue caps with the Japanese characters for "Iwo Jima" inscribed in gold lettering.

Along with the veterans, the United States was represented by Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Carl Mundy Jr., Navy Secretary John Dalton and Walter Mondale, Washington's ambassador to Japan.

"The Pacific was once an ocean of blood, but it is now a place of peace and prosperity, because America and Japan are working together," Mr. Mondale told reporters.

Japan, which has expressed concern over the handling of several other ceremonies marking 50th war anniversaries, did not send any cabinet-level ministers to the Iwo Jima ceremony.

The Tokyo government was reportedly worried that the ceremony would focus too much on America's victory, and east Japan in a negative light. U.S. Marine officials coordinating the ceremony say such fears were unfounded, and stressed it was mostly a remembrance for the dead.

Japan was represented by a deputy chief of its defence agency, Shigeru Miyazaki. Yohei Kono declined an invitation and sent an underling and issued a statement which extended his "deepest condolences."

"Japan and the United States have overcome the de-

plorable rupture brought about by the war, and have forged a close and cooperative relationship," the statement said.

Iwo Jima was a particularly bitter defeat for Japan.

Though the tiny volcanic island extends only about sevenkilometres (4½ miles) from tip to tip, it was deemed a strategic stepping stone along the way to the expected invasion of Honshu, Japan's main island. Japan surrendered after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, making that invasion unnecessary.

Bombing raids on Iwo Jima from aircraft carriers began in June 1944, and by Feb. 19 landing Iwo Jima was an eerie, moon-like crag.

Under the command of Lt.-Gen. Tadamichi Kuribayashi, the dug-in Japanese forces fought almost to the last man.

More marines were killed on Iwo Jima than in any other single battle. Twenty-seven medals of honour were awarded to marines and sailors for valour there, also more than for any other single operation of the war.

Iwo Jima also became a symbol of the war because of the famous photograph of U.S. soldiers raising the flag atop Mount Suribachi taken by AP photographer Joe Rosenthal.

The island is once again covered with lush blanketed jungle. Whales can be seen swimming in the deep blue waters that surround the island.

Iwo Jima's black beaches continue to give up rusted bullet casings, and somewhere in its countless caves and tunnels are the remains of thousands of fallen soldiers.

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World News



Citizens of Benkovac, a Serbian held town in Croatia, dig a trench in the area overlooking the town. Croatian President Franjo Tuđman has agreed to extend the stay of U.N.

S. Africa's Zulu row ends up in court

DURBAN, South Africa (AFP) — A blazing row between Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini and Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi over the future of the Zulu monarchy Tuesday landed up in court.

The king, believing Mr. Buthelezi is trying to dethrone him, applied in the Pietermaritzburg Supreme Court for a law which allows for the removal of the monarch to be declared null and void, royal spokesman Sifiso Zulu told a press conference.

Mr. Zulu said King Zwi-

lithini is challenging the creation of the House of Traditional Leaders, which has the authority to withdraw the king's powers and functions.

Legislation establishing the 80-member body, made up mostly of IFP-aligned traditional chiefs and chaired by Mr. Buthelezi, was passed by the KwaZulu-Natal provincial legislature late last year thanks to the IFP's one-seat majority.

The king, Mr. Zulu said, claims the bill was rushed through the legislature by the IFP and believed it "unacceptable" that he, as titular

head of the province's approximately 300 chiefs, was not consulted about its creation.

Certain provisions of the law on the House of Traditional Leaders are of great concern to the king, particularly those that give the (chiefs) authority over the king... and power to dethrone the king," Mr. Zulu said.

Nelson Mandela's African National Congress and two ANC-aligned chiefs have separately instituted legal proceedings against the provincial government in an attempt to have the legislation overturned.

French Socialist leader faces jail demand

SAINT-BRIEUC, France (Agencies) — A prosecutor demanded Tuesday a two-day suspended prison sentence for French Socialist Party leader Henri Emmanuelli, accused of illegal funding practices for his movement.

Mr. Emmanuelli is one of 17 people on trial in a series of corruption or party funding cases involving all of France's major political parties, which are being held against the backdrop of campaigning for the April-May presidential election.

Public Prosecutor Yves Boivin requested the punishment against Emmanuelli on charges of complicity in influence peddling when he was Socialist Party treasurer from 1988 to 1991, including the May 1988 re-election of Socialist President François Mitterrand.

The trial revolves around the Urba Consultancy Firm, staffed by Socialist militants or sympathisers, and said to have been involved in taking rackets from public contracts.

The prosecution alleges that companies seeking public works contracts paid commissions to such firms which were then funnelled into Socialist Party coffers.

Mr. Boivin asked for three of the accused to be cleared of charges but for punishments against the others including several three-year terms, only part of which would be suspended.

He brushed aside Mr. Emmanuelli's denial of involvement saying "of course you knew very well how Urba worked. As party treasurer you made the decisions."

Mr. Emmanuelli told the court last week he was never involved in Urba's management.

But he said under questioning he had met Urba Chairman Gerard Monate two or three times a year to discuss the party budget and "no doubt, like many Socialist Party leaders, asked him to help some elected office holder."

Mr. Boivin also asked for a suspended two-year-sentence against Mr. Monate who worked at Urba after being long-time president of the main French Policemen's Union.

Mr. Emmanuelli, 49, unsuccessful contender for the Socialist presidential nomination, said he had suffered "three years of calamity" after being indicted in the Urba case in 1992.

A former party treasurer and National Assembly speaker, he resigned his seat in parliament when he came under investigation but was later comfortably re-elected.

Meanwhile Jacques Chirac, the leading candidate in French presidential elections, Monday announced his personal worth — 7.2 million francs (about \$1.4 million) — in a bow to public pressure on contenders to stay strictly above board.

The figure shows that Mr. Chirac, the mayor of Paris, is three times poorer than prime Minister Edouard Balladur who divulged his worth Friday — about 21.1 million francs (\$4.2 million).

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Cindy Crawford made \$6.5m. 1994

Balladur dissents from welcome for Castro

PARIS (R) — French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur distanced himself Tuesday from the red-carpet welcome granted to Cuban President Fidel Castro by outgoing Socialist President François Mitterrand.

"I am not convinced that in the current circumstances, there were grounds to give a spectacular character to relations between France and Cuba," Mr. Balladur, a conservative candidate in April-May presidential elections, told Reuters.

Mr. Balladur said the U.S. economic embargo on Cuba was adopted at a time when Washington felt its security was threatened but was no longer justified in a changed world.

He said France had to deal with foreign governments even when it had little sympathy with their human rights record or their respect for freedom. "This applies to Mr. Castro as it does to others," he said.

But in a rare public difference with Mr. Mitterrand on foreign policy, the Prime Minister said he saw no reason for a spectacular

warming of ties with Cuba at this time.

Asked why he had not met Mr. Castro during the Marxist revolutionary leader's current four-day visit to France, Mr. Balladur said: "He did not ask to be received."

Mr. Castro was playing tourist Thursday morning in the French capital and began his day by visiting the tomb of Napoleon at the Invalides.

The Cuban leader, who donned his traditional military uniform for the occasion, was accompanied by an aide carrying a Michelin guide of the French capital.

He arrived at the Invalides at about 0630 GMT and visited the site for some 30 minutes. He later visited the Louvre Museum and the Eiffel Tower.

This is Mr. Castro's first visit to France since he took power in January 1959.

Mr. Castro began his first visit to France with a blistering attack on American "imperialism" seeking global domination.

Using the platform of a United Nations organisation — the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Orga-

nisation — Mr. Castro delivered a fiery speech largely taking aim at the United States.

Washington "wants to control the outcome of the world," Mr. Castro said, "the complete hegemony of this one country... scorches sovereignty and scorns peaceful settlement of disputes."

It is only Mr. Castro's third visit to Western Europe since his revolutionaries won power in Cuba. He visited Spain in 1984 and 1992.

At UNESCO he denounced the U.S. embargo of Cuba as a "criminal blockade" that victimises children, women, the elderly and the sick.

Earlier, Mr. Castro was welcomed at the presidential palace with the kind of pomp accorded heads of state. He said his groundbreaking visit to France marked the end of "apartheid" imposed by the West on Cuba for 36 years.

"This morning, touching French soil, I said to myself, 'this is it. Apartheid is over,'" Mr. Castro told President François Mitterrand during a luncheon at the Elysee Palace.

Karachi arrest toll reaches 400

KARACHI (Agencies) — Despite 400 arrests in four days, none of the suspects has been charged in any of the recent mass killings that have convulsed Karachi, police said Tuesday.

Shahid Hamid, the home secretary for Sind province, which includes Karachi, said Monday that six suspected terrorists were among those picked up in the city-wide roundup that began Saturday.

But police officials, who requested anonymity, said Tuesday that none of the 400 bad been charged with serious crimes. Many of those arrested are suspects in petty crimes and were out on bail, one source said.

"The arrests are just an eyewash to make it look like something is happening," said Nazim Haji, co-chairman of the Citizens-Police Liaison Committee, a private group that works with police, but is often critical of the force.

"If these dangerous suspects have always been there, then why didn't the police arrest them earlier?" he told the Associated Press.

Mt. Hamid, the home secretary, said the terrorist

suspects were linked to pro-militant organisations, including the Mohajir Quami Movement, a political opposition group, and Tehrik-E-Jafra Pakistan, a hardline Shi'ite Muslim group.

But leaders from both organisations denied their members were involved in any recent attacks and challenged the authorities to provide proof. There have been about a dozen terrorist attacks in Karachi this year, but none of the cases has been solved.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has blamed rival ethnic, political, and religious groups, and also has accused the country's drug barons.

Meanwhile, an FBI team continued to search for clues into last week's shooting death of two American diplomatic personnel who worked U.S. consulate in Karachi.

The Americans are offering \$2 million for information leading to the killers, but there have been no breakthroughs so far.

An army of up to 4,000 extremists funded by drug barons is stirring up the chronic violence that has left more than 1,000 dead over

the past year in Karachi, a police official said Tuesday.

Preliminary investigations after the arrest of 350 people in a two-day clampdown in the sprawling port city indicated that traffickers were the cause of Karachi's strife, government officials said.

Karachi Police Chief Afzal Shigri claimed that 3,000 to 4,000 extremists were actively involved in creating unrest.

Many of those arrested are members of ethnic and sectarian parties and at least six have been charged with terrorism, he said.

The statements have turned the spotlight from India, long blamed by the government as being the cause of Karachi's problems, to drug gangs. But observers say the authorities may be "oversimplifying complex problem."

A sectarian party activist told AFP that the "sudden flurry of activity and arrests were simply meant to pacify the Americans and subdue international criticism."

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Opinion & Analysis

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Key in the air

THE ISRAELI Labour government led by Yitzhak Rabin has no more than a few months to conclude a peace agreement with Syria and Lebanon. It can clinch a compromise deal now or risk face a disappointed Israeli electorate, just before the 1996 election campaign kicks off soon. If peace between the two principal antagonists is not reached by the summer of 1996, a Likud government led by Benjamin Netanyahu may well be the successor to the ruling coalition.

Syria wants total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights as a condition to make peace and have normal ties with the Jewish state. Damascus says that short of achieving such a goal it will not be ready to end the state of war and seek peaceful relations with its neighbour. The Israeli leaders meanwhile insist that the Syrians take the first steps towards a settlement, as a measure of good intentions, and then hope to win a national consensus on an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

The two countries have been negotiating on different levels, including in talks between their two envoys in the U.S. and their military chiefs of staff. And they apparently both agree on the deployment of U.S. troops on the Golan as a buffer between their armies.

Yet what has bogged the negotiations down seems to be that the Israelis have so far not committed themselves to a full withdrawal from the strategic plateau. Until last week, Mr. Rabin was talking only about a phased withdrawal "to test the Syrians." But this week with a fresh round of diplomacy by the U.S. Secretary of State, there seems to be new hope for an early breakthrough. Warren Christopher, still shuttling yesterday between the two countries, would only say that the two sides were going through "serious discussions." But at least one Israeli leader, namely Shimon Peres, did come up with a good idea on Monday. Instead of talking about "phased-withdrawal," Peres finally admitted that his country needs to pay the "inevitable price" if it wanted peace with Syria. This price was interpreted by Labour Party Secretary General Nissim Zvili to mean "total retreat from the Golan."

Has that message been already passed on to President Assad? We do not know, but certainly hope that it has. A breakthrough on that front will most certainly be the key to a lasting and comprehensive peace in the region as a whole.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily on Tuesday voiced hope that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to Jordan and his tour of the region would contribute to pushing the peace process forward. The newspaper said in its editorial that it hoped the visit would constitute a step forward in the process, noting that time that is wasted cannot be made up. It said it has become imperative now to achieve progress in the process to avoid any harm to it. What we know for sure is that Mr. Christopher heard from His Majesty King Hussein what he heard from him before and received from His Majesty assurances of Jordan's support for peace and a just settlement because the substitute for all that is suffering, which will be harsher than the years of war. It said Jordan will support peace and work for its noble cause but warned that Jordan cannot protect peace alone. Al Ra'i said the many promises of support and assistance are appreciated by the Kingdom but such promises cannot be used to solve the problems of poverty, unemployment, extremism and cannot end people's suffering. It urged Washington to support the peace process and the Jordanian role so as not to allow the anti-peace forces to exploit the difficult situation.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i, Nadia Al Aloul, on Tuesday congratulated women on their achievements at both the professional and scientific levels and the role they play in public affairs. Ms. Aloul asked about the role of women as educators, mothers and housewives regarding some alien phenomenon invading the Jordanian society, such as violence and drug addiction. "Some might insist that our society is still okay, but we tell them that our society looks fine only when compared to foreign societies, but is this enough?" she asked. She said that the best means to fight such problems is strengthening the family, mothers in particular. Mothers, the writer said, can build bridges of contact with their children at a time family disintegration is starting to threaten society.

Washington Watch

The two-front debate on Jerusalem

JERUSALEM IS once again a front and centre as an issue in U.S. politics. As Clinton administration grapples with how to respond to congressional pressure to move to the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, U.S. religious leaders are engaged in their own conflict over their positions on the holy city.

To its credit, despite significant pressure, the administration has remained quite firm in its determination to adhere to the terms of the peace process.

The congressional pressure comes in the form of a letter being circulated in the Senate. Started by New York Senators Alfonso D'Amato and Patrick Daniel Moynihan, the letter has already received 77 co-signers, making it one of the largest groups that has ever signed on to one of these pro-Israel statements.

The letter, which is addressed to Secretary of State Warren Christopher, recalls that the Senate has passed five resolutions over the past decade calling on the U.S. government to acknowledge Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. The letter cynically notes that Jerusalem is "a sensitive issue in the current peace process" and that it is "a final status issue," but then goes on to say that "the search for peace can only be hindered by raising utterly unrealistic hopes about the future status of Jerusalem among the Palestinians..."

In other words, while the question of Jerusalem is a final status issue only in theory, and the signatories of the letter want the U.S. to dictate the outcome so that the status quo remains unchanged. The senators have therefore called on the administration to begin planning to move the embassy so that such a move can take place no later than May of 1999 — the end of the "transition phase" provided for in the Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement.

Complementing the letter is a resolution being introduced in the Senate by Arizona Republiquo Jon Kyle which, if passed, would remove U.S. financial support for the embassy in Tel Aviv and provide funding only for an embassy in Jerusalem.

The Clinton administration has not only resisted these politically motivated efforts by the Senate but has done so in the most public and assertive manner. At the confirmation hearings for his nomination as the next U.S. ambassador to Israel, former national security advisor Martin Indyk, delivered a strongly worded rebuke to those who are supporting these moves in the following sections of his testimony:

"Jerusalem is a very sensitive issue, sensitive because Jerusalem is a symbol, a very important symbol for Israel, for the Jewish people, but also a very important symbol for Christians, Muslims, for Palestinians and Arabs... In those circumstances, it is the president's feeling — the administration's feeling — that we should do nothing to undermine or preempt those negotiations, that we should wait and let the parties sort out this very sensitive issue before doing anything... I believe very strongly that to make a move now would explode the peace process... it would put us out of business as a facilitator of those negotiations."

In a recent Capitol Hill forum on the peace process in which I participated along with David Satterfield, who is deputy national security advisor for South Asian and Near

Eastern affairs. Mr. Satterfield repeated Mr. Indyk's emphatic and strongly worded message. So it seems that for its part, the Clinton administration will follow its predecessors by doing nothing to alter the status of Jerusalem.

Nevertheless, this pre-election year game of Congress attempting to force the administration to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel will continue just as it has in every pre-election year in recent memory. One might recall that President Reagan faced the same pressure and he, too, resisted despite having promised to support such an embassy move during his 1980 campaign against President Jimmy Carter.)

And while the major American-Jewish organisations are split on this current effort, those who want to force the issue are quite pleased that their efforts have so far won the support of three-fourths of the Senate. Even leading Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole has signed the letter — a fact which has raised genuine concern among the Muslim and Arab-American Republicans who were supporting his campaign.

In the midst of this conflict between the Senate and the administration, an important statement, "Jerusalem: City of Peace," was released by eight major U.S. Christian leaders.

Going well beyond the question of whose capital Jerusalem should be, the Christian leaders focused on their concern on what the real effects of Israeli policy are having on the city, its environs and its Arab residents. Openly dealing with these Israeli policies which pose a grave threat to Jerusalem, the Christian leaders call on the administration, "as facilitator of the peace process," to "place the question of Jerusalem high on its agenda."

Concerned that "developments on the ground in Jerusalem area leave less and less room for negotiation," the Christian leaders statement specifically notes:

"In contravention of international law, more and more land is taken out of Palestinian hands and placed under Israeli control by annexation, expropriation and private purchases, often of questionable legality:

"Israeli planning for "Greater Jerusalem" is an open secret;

"Israel's assertion that Jerusalem will remain the 'eternal and undivided capital of Israel' is widely interpreted as a claim of exclusive Israeli sovereignty over the city that preempts genuine negotiation;

"That the administration is backing away from the long-term United States policy that East Jerusalem is subject to U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 regarding territories occupied by armed forces in 1967;

"That the administration is failing to recognise and support Palestinian rights and interests in Jerusalem;

"That the administration is not using its considerable influence to halt Israeli construction in East Jerusalem and continued expansion into Palestinian areas."

What was most significant about this Christian letter is that the lead signature was that of Cardinal William H. Keeler, president of the National Council of Catholic Bishops. Since Catholic bishops do not sign letters as individuals, the contents of the letter have been approved

by the entire institutional hierarchy of the U.S. Catholic church and represents their strongest and most clear statement to date on Jerusalem and on Israeli violation of Palestinian rights. Among the other signatories were leaders of two principal Evangelical Christian groups: the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and World Vision.

It is this leadership role played by the Catholic church and some Evangelicals that has raised the greatest concern in the Jewish community. In the past, statements such as these have come from the mainline Protestant denominations and their National Council of Churches (including Methodists, Lutherans, Baptists, etc.). American-Jewish groups have given up on attempting to influence these churches; but they have also learned that the weight of statements issued by these Protestant churches do not pose a major challenge, since they do not include institutional support for the stands taken in them. But what Jewish groups know is that when the Catholics move on an issue, it can represent a major institutional voice in the public policy debate.

Major Jewish groups have responded to this statement by Christian leaders with a fury. The responses ranged from one irate editorial in a Jewish newspaper, which asked "Who Asked You?" to statements of denunciation by the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organisations and the American Zionist Movement. Serious pressure will now be put on these Christian leaders to modify or retract their approval of the statement, especially the Catholics, whose courage of conviction will be challenged by U.S. Jewish organisations.

What is important is that the major U.S. Christian leaders have formally joined the debate — not only over Jerusalem's future but over its present reality and the impact of Israeli policies that have been ignored for too long in the U.S. By forcing the debate on these Israeli policies, the signatories of the Christian letter will help to shift the debate from an abstract future to the real present.

The significance of this statement should not be ignored by Arabs, Muslims, Arab-Americans or American-Muslims. The U.S. Christian leadership should be supported for this bold move.

One final note: the Arab World must do more to help in the matter of Jerusalem. For Americans to realise the legitimacy of the Arab claim to the city of Jerusalem, more must be done to bring this issue into the American debate.

Israel's campaign to be recognised as the sole proprietor of the city has gone largely uncontested. A major campaign should be launched in the United States to establish in the minds of Americans the Arab past, present and future in the city holy to three faiths and hundreds of thousands of Palestinians for whom Jerusalem is their ancestral home. Exhibitions of history and literature, speaking tours, advertising, films and other media should be utilised in the campaign to lend weight to legitimate Arab claims.

As I have said in many part articles, there is a debate here in the U.S. whose outcome can be of critical importance to the lives of so many in the Arab World — come and join the debate.

After poverty summit, simple question remains

By Nicholas Doughty
Reuter

COPENHAGEN — It was an epic session of worthy speeches. World leaders urged an end to poverty before making a lofty pledge to transform the human condition.

Now, after a week of words and red-carpet festivities including a lavish banquet, fireworks and laser displays, a simple question hangs in the air.

Was the U.N. Social Summit simply an expensive jamboree? Or will it really bring change to a world where one in five of the inhabitants — more than one billion people — lives below the breadline

and where millions have neither jobs nor dignity?

From the streets of Mexico City to the slums of Manila, hopes have been raised that the week-long summit will help bridge the growing divide between rich and poor as the world strides towards the 21st century.

Chile's ambassador to the United Nations, who led the way in preparing the U.N. Conference on Social Development, said the summit had a clear message of hope for the dispossessed.

"It has told the poor that... We will do something about their problems," Juan Somavia told Reuters. "The summit has

delivered and put ordinary people back into the picture."

Echoing warnings from many leaders that real change would take time, Mr. Somavia said he was hopeful because previous U.N. conferences on issues ranging from women's rights to the environment had helped bring change over the years.

But some wondered whether the meeting was the latest example of "summit fatigue," a disease that results from increasingly frequent top-level meetings called to discuss the world's ills.

Last year, it was Cairo for the global population explosion, while 1992 saw

the U.N. environment summit in Rio De Janeiro.

In Copenhagen, what underpinned many speeches was the fear that the gap between rich and poor is now so wide that it has become the major threat to security in the post-cold war era.

"It is important to avoid the arrival of the boat people," U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali said in a television interview during the summit.

The summit declaration, which contained general commitments to help developing countries but no binding promises, touched indirectly on the fear that governments might lose control.

"We can continue to hold the trust of the people of the world only if we make their needs our priority," it said.

But an equitable sharing of the world's resources that would create stable, prosperous countries with little inclination to go to war still seems to be a distant dream.

Behind the rhetoric of unified action lurked the old arguments between the market forces of capitalism and the planned structures of socialism, the bitter tensions between Western nations and the countries they once colonised.

Cuba lashed out at Washington, while Syria, Sudan and others blamed

the West for not giving them more trade or writing off the billions of dollars of debt owed by developing countries.

Germany and the United States talked about how countries must learn to help themselves. They underlined the importance of human rights in the presence of several leaders.

Although the end of the cold war has offered a unique chance for global cooperation, there was also a recognition at the summit that, with the old certainties of East-West division gone, ethnic conflicts and other problems pose new threats.

Modern Turkey is part of Europe, and increasingly so

By Tansu Ciller

The writer is prime minister of Turkey

ANKARA — Some people claim that Turkey is not part of Europe. They are wrong on two counts.

First, they perhaps do not know the Turkey of today, recognisably a modern and European country where young people, for example, have the same lifestyle and interests, concerns and hopes as the rest of their generation across Europe.

Second, without Turkey, Europe would be a continent that chooses to amputate nearly 3,000 years of its own history and culture.

The Turks and Turkey have been a part of the life of the continent for many centuries. It is the idea that Turkey is not European which is new. A strong and prosperous Turkey, firmly integrated into the mainstream life of Europe, will be a beacon of stability over a wide region roiling with religious and ethnic antagonisms.

It will give the lie to prejudice and extremism. In the closing years of the 20th century, regional free trade blocs such as the European Union and the North America have appeared on every continent. They are stepping stones towards a world of almost unlimited opportunities, built on democratic values, the free market system and the miracles of new

technology.

Adaptable and pragmatic regional economic groupings are the best way to overcome historical suspicions and rivalries. They provide a framework in which business communities in every country cooperate freely to generate prosperity.

Turkey is situated on the edge of both Europe and the Middle East. So it has an almost unique combination of experience and insights where regional groupings are concerned.

We are working hard with Israel and the leading Arab states to ensure that the endemic conflict of the Middle East is replaced by cooperation and the elimination of poverty and insecurity.

Our geographic position enables us to share in similar ventures elsewhere. The Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organisation is forging links between countries in the Black Sea region. At its meetings, even hostile countries such as Azerbaijan and Armenia sit around the same table to discuss ways of peaceful cooperation. Elsewhere, we are trying to promote trade and cooperation in the Caucasus and among the newly independent countries of Central Asia.

There are two reasons we stress trade and cooperation this way.

LETTERS

Baffling comments

To the Editor:

THE COMMENTS made by the Minister of Culture, Samir Habashneh, at a population conference in Copenhagen regarding women and reprinted in the Jordan Times, issue of March 14, were really surprising. How a minister, who is also a writer and an intellectual, can say there is no discrimination against women in Jordan absolutely baffles me.

Can we imagine, for one second, that the minister does not know anything about all forms of abuse against women in Jordan and all over the world? Doesn't he know that Jordanian women can't even have a passport without the approval of their fathers or their guardians? Doesn't he know that the man has the right to divorce his wife without having any valid reason? Doesn't he really see discrimination against women, at work, at home and in the streets?

There is no doubt that Jordan has made significant strides towards advancement of women's rights and their living conditions. But that does not mean that the minister or anyone else can overstate facts, exaggerate and misrepresent the actual situation.

What is frustrating is that the claim comes from an intellectual, who has been writing about social issues for several years. But what is even more frustrating is that he made his claim to an international conference that was attended by many experts from all over the world.

It would have been more credible if the minister talked about Jordan's achievements and how much is left to be done. Mr. Habashneh should have talked about women's aspirations, their objectives and the obstacles or not talk about the whole issue at all.

If it was not for discrimination against women, the minister should know, we would have fewer problems here in Jordan and elsewhere in the world.

Sa'eda Kilani,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

News

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israel ups Palestinian permits to 21,600

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Israeli army announced Tuesday that another 3,600 permits would be allocated for Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to work in Israel. The announcement brought the total number of permits to 21,600. Israel allowed in 47,000 Palestinian labourers before a double suicide bombing killed 21 Israelis on Jan. 22. An estimated 20,000 more were employed illegally in the Jewish state. After the bombing the army sealed off the territories for a month.

Khomeini's son remains critical

TEHRAN (AFP) — Doctors reported little improvement Tuesday in the condition of Ahmad Khomeini, son of the founder of the Islamic republic Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who is in a coma after a heart attack. "The latest tests have shown minor functioning of the brain," the head of 30-strong medical team, Hassan Arefi, told the Iranian official agency IRNA. But Mr. Khomeini's "health condition could gradually improve," he said, adding that a respiratory system problem had been partly cleared and his blood pressure was returning to normal.

Heavily-armed Algerian held in Spain

BARCELONA (R) — Police arrested a suspected member of a militant Algerian Islamic fundamentalist group with a suitcase full of weapons at a Barcelona train station, a spokeswoman said on Tuesday. The 25-year-old was carrying fake French identity papers and heading for Algeria, she added. "The detainee is thought to be a member of GIA (Armed Islamic Group)," the police spokeswoman said. The Algerian was carrying three automatic rifles, magazines for Kalashnikov assault rifles, 2,000 bullets of various sizes, a hand grenade, an electronic detonator and two laser sights for precision rifles, police said.

Charles visits pharaonic ruins

LUXOR (AP) — The heir to the British throne visited the Nile's Valley of the Kings Tuesday, chatting with admiring tourists who mobbed him on a tour of Egyptian antiquity. Japanese, British and American sightseers jostled for a glimpse of Prince Charles as he visited the tombs of Tutankhamun and Seti I, the temple of Queen Hatshepsut and the 1,500-year-old Temple of Karnak, the most famed sites of pharaonic Egypt. Japanese waved, clapped and yelled "Charles" as the prince walked through Hatshepsut's cavernous halls, wearing a double-breasted suit on a hot winter day. Prince Charles turned to the 20 tourists, smiled and asked them about their trip. It was a similar scene at the other sites. Prince Charles will leave for Morocco on Wednesday. On his trip in Egypt, he mixed politics with sightseeing, visiting the Giza Pyramids, Islamic monuments and the mountain in the Sinai Peninsula believed to be the site of the biblical burning bush. He also met Christian and Muslim leaders.

Trial of 14 suspects starts in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Fourteen suspected Muslim extremists accused of killing two policemen in 1993 went on trial Tuesday, joined in court by relatives whom they had not seen in more than a year. Nine of the men are charged with killing a policeman in Cairo. Five others are accused of shooting an officer in Sohag, a town about 390 kilometers south of Cairo. All 14, wearing white prison trousers and shirts and sporting long beards common among militants, denied the charges, which included stealing the policemen's weapons and attempted murder. One policeman was wounded in the attack in Sohag. The killings are part of a three-year campaign to overthrow the government in which more than 600 people have died.

Iran to send 500,000 back to Afghanistan

TEHRAN (AFP) — Half million refugees from Afghanistan are to be repatriated in the next 12 months under an accord between Iran and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), an Iranian official said Tuesday. The head of the aliens department at the Interior Ministry, Ahmad Hosseini, said the UNHCR had earmarked \$12 million for the project. Iran intends to limit the number of refugees on its soil, he added in comments published by the press. "From March 21, 400,000 Afghans with temporary residence permits must start leaving Iran voluntarily; otherwise they will be transferred to refugee camps," he said.

Turkey, Georgia to open border gate

ANKARA (R) — Turkey and Georgia are to open a border crossing and begin direct flights soon, the Anatolian news agency said on Tuesday. Senior border officials from both countries met on the Turkish side of the frontier on Tuesday and signed a protocol for the first crossing to be opened in Turkey's Ardahan province, near Posof town, it said.

Settlers publish book in praise of Goldstein

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A book entitled "Baruch, the Man," in praise of Hebron mosque killer Goldstein, went on sale in Israel and the occupied territories on Tuesday. Militants from the banned anti-Arab Kach movement, several rabbis and Jewish settlers from the Hebron area worked together on the 553-page hardback with colour pictures which sells for about \$12. They paid to publish 6,000 copies and intend to sell any profits on the grave of Baruch Goldstein at the settlement of Kiryat Arba where he was a doctor.

Rebels say wing formed to hit Khartoum

NAIROBI (R) — Sudan's largest rebel faction said on Tuesday it was forming a new brigade to concentrate on guerrilla war in government-controlled centres including Khartoum. A spokesman for the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) led by John Garang said: "The New Sudan Brigade" would include "armed cells" in government-controlled urban centres under SPLA command. In its 12-year-old civil war with Khartoum, the SPLA has focused on trying to seize government-held territory, villages and towns in the south. It has not carried out guerrilla attacks inside the capital and northern areas under Khartoum's control.

Iran to send 69,000 pilgrims to Haj

NICOSIA (R) — Iran will send 69,000 pilgrims to attend the annual Haj in Saudi Arabia in May but plans to lobby to increase the number it can send to the pilgrimage, the Iranian news agency IRNA quoted an official as saying. In a report late on Monday, it quoted Mohammad Hussein Rezaei, head of the Haj and Pilgrimage Organisation, as saying Iran would send 4,000 more pilgrims to this year's Haj but it was still dissatisfied. "Some 69,000 Iranians will perform the Haj ... far below the 100,000 to 150,000 that used to undertake the annual obligation before the Saudis cut down the numbers on vague pretexts," Mr. Rezaei was quoted as saying.

Japan to send pilot mission to Golan

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's ruling coalition decided Tuesday to send a fact-finding mission to the Golan Heights in April to decide whether or not to send peacekeeping troops to the Israeli-occupied territory. The mission, to be comprised of representatives from three ruling parties and governor officials, will depart around April 10 for a 10-day tour of Israel, Syria and Jordan, Jiji and Kyodo news agencies said.

King and Major hold talks

(Continued from page 1)

ing a larger role in the peace process.

The British prime minister, the second head of government to visit the autonomous Strip, also pledged an unspecified amount of British export credits to the Palestinians and said he would set up a fund to develop Palestinian technological skills.

Mr. Major's visit to Gaza was marred by the death of a child shot accidentally by a Palestinian policeman.

A member of Mr. Arafat's elite guard was cleaning his machine gun when it went off in Shati refugee camp and killed 10-year-old Muhabar Attallah Al Rawabi.

Mr. Major cancelled a planned tour of the camp on the outskirts of Gaza City, and a British spokesman said: "The death of the child is very regrettable."

"We were in the hands of Palestinian security and we take their recommendations where to go and where not to go."

"The prime minister would have been very disappointed

not to visit a refugee camp."

Mr. Major gave Mr. Arafat a gift of 50 patrol vehicles for the Palestinian police and pledged Britain's full support for his self-rule authority.

"We understand the importance of the rule of law in democratic societies and I believe you deserve every support for the difficult tasks ahead," he said. "You have our support."

"We are keen to help with both training and equipment whenever we can."

Britain is donating \$120 million to the Palestinians over the next three years as well as \$100 million through the European Union.

Mr. Major also said that the European Union may send observers for the planned elections to a Palestinian self-rule council.

Mr. Arafat was "willing, and that is very good news," he said. "It means a new departure for Europe and reflects Europe's desire," to join peace efforts.

Mr. Arafat told Mr. Major and the British business leaders accompanying him that Gaza lacked everything from hospital beds to export mar-

kets for flowers.

"We are looking for your support ... in the European Union so that we can have the ability to export our production directly."

Mr. Major promised to take up the request with EU colleagues.

Mr. Major termed his entourage "undoubtedly the strongest team of British businessmen to ever collectively leave British shores" and said he hoped they would establish direct business dealings with Palestinians.

The EU was becoming more actively involved in implementing the Sept. 1993 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy accord, he added.

"It does reflect, I feel, Europe's desire to take a more active part in promoting the peace process across the region," he said.

Later, Mr. Major met with a Palestinian delegation at the British consulate in Jerusalem and paid a courtesy call on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin before leaving for Jordan.

He held official talks with Mr. Rabin on Monday.

Issue is one of the most difficult questions to resolve and which has to be addressed directly and effectively.

He said the U.S. tried to play a role in examining the options available but stressed that it was up for the two parties to agree on a solution.

While in Syria, Mr. Christo-

pher said meanwhile he believed peace talks with Syria would resume, and opposition leaders launched a campaign to block any withdrawal from the Golan Heights and bring on early elections.

Mr. Rabin told the Knesset's foreign affairs and defence committee he believed Syria would renew peace talks because U.S. prestige was on the line.

"It won't be pleasant with the Americans if they don't," Mr. Rabin was quoted as saying by an official who briefed reporters on the closed-door meeting.

Right-wing opponents of a Golan withdrawal said they were sure the government, despite denials, had given in to Syrian demands for a complete pullback from the strategic plateau.

"It's not a secret that the government is prepared to cede the entire Golan to Syria. I have no doubt that this message was communicated to Assad," said Benjamin Netanyahu, head of the opposition Likud Party.

Mr. Netanyahu told reporters he plans to submit a bill dispersing parliament and calling for new elections. Elections are currently scheduled for November 1996.

If elections were held now, Mr. Netanyahu said Mr. Rabin would "lose and lose big." He said his party opposed withdrawing from any part of the heights.

Netanyahu spokesman Shai Bazak said the bill would be submitted by the end of the month, but Likud officials admitted it was not likely to pass and was mainly symbolic.

He urged the brigade's personnel to be a good example for all their colleagues in the armed forces in the present and in the future, the same as they were in the past.

"I remember the brave men of this formation around me while we were under barages of fire. I remember them in the time of my sickness... and I remember their joy when I returned home (after having a surgery). I will remember them always in all conditions and circumstances as representing the whole armed forces as long as I live," he said.

Earlier, the mufti of the armed forces delivered an address paying tribute to the King's endeavours to develop the armed forces and voicing allegiance to the Hashemite leadership.

The commander of the Brigade delivered another address and thanked the King for promoting the Royal Guards formation into a brigade and pledged on behalf of the brigade's personnel to rise up to the level of the King's expectations.

He said the King's continued support and encouragement were the main factor for the brigade's good level of performance and its professionalism.

After the speeches the King handed the hamer to the commander and presented awards to excelling personnel in training activities.

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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and officials at a meeting held Tuesday evening with British Prime Minister John Major, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and other

Dudayev vows Chechen suicide attacks in Russia

MOSCOW (R) — Chechen rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev threatened, in an interview published on Tuesday, to unleash kamikaze attacks on Russian cities to back his region's struggle for independence.

The threat, reported by the Komsomolskaya Pravda newspaper, brought an immediate outcry from the Russian Interior Ministry.

"Dudayev is bluffing again," a ministry official said by telephone. "We all remember how often he has promised to blow up Moscow since military action is on the line."

"If terrorists strike, they will surprise on their side, but our services will neutralise them as soon as anything happens," Mr. Dudayev had threatened several times previously to retaliate for Moscow's military intervention in his breakaway Caucasus region with attacks in Russia and he has warned that civilians could die in any such assault.

This time he told Komsomolskaya Pravda: "Kamikaze units are being formed ... from those who are ready to die to avenge their fathers and children killed in bombing raids."

"When they squeeze into Russian cities, many innocent people may suffer," said Mr. Dudayev, who is leading the fight against Russian troops and tanks sent to the region on Dec. 11.

The newspaper said the interview took place in a Chechen village.

Mr. Dudayev said Chechen fighters had the addresses of those responsible for killing civilians in the rebel Caucasus region, which declared itself independent in 1991.

Moscow's troops seized control of the Chechen capital Grozny after weeks of bloody fighting, flattening

3 women killed in Algeria



ALGIERS (AFP) — Islamic extremists killed three women Tuesday near Algiers, raising to seven the number killed since Saturday, the Algerian security service said.

Police have said they believe the attacks are part of a deliberate campaign to target the families of security personnel.

The three latest victims died in Regaha, 15 kilometres east of Algiers, where suspected fundamentalists shot dead two teenage sisters, one of them engaged to a policeman, at the weekend.

In the attacks Tuesday, armed fundamentalists raided the home of Halima Toumi, 29, killing her and Hafida Bougerra, 25.

In another attack a woman, named as Zineb, 39, was killed with her husband at their home in Regaha. There was no word on whether any of the victims were linked to the security services.

On Saturday sisters Amel and Karima Guedjali, aged 19 and 18, were shot dead by three men in front of their father and their 13-year-old sister, two days after the expiry of an ultimatum issued by the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) that dependents of security force members would be killed if arrested.

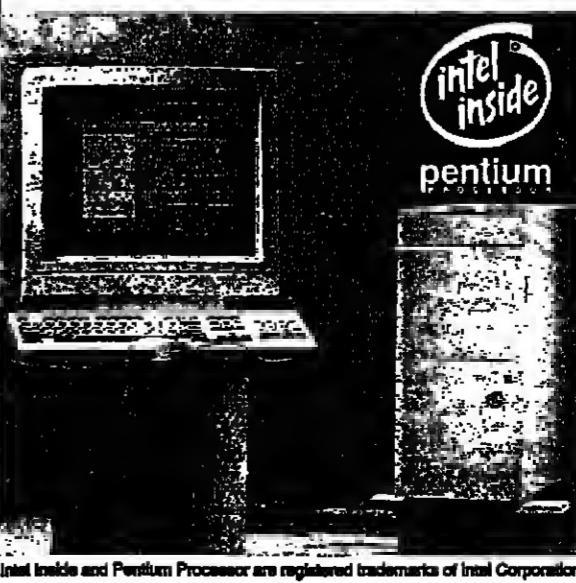
The previous day a car-bomb exploded in a housing complex inhabited by police families, injured 63 people, including eight children.

Islamic groups have also targeted women for failing to obey Islamic law.

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Grobbelaar and Segers arrested

SOUTHAMPTON (Agencies) — Goalkeepers Bruce Grobbelaar of Southampton and Hans Segers of Wimbleton and Aston Villa striker John Fashanu were arrested Tuesday in connection with match-fixing allegations, police said.

Also arrested were a Malaysian businessman and Fashanu's girlfriend.

Police arrested Zimbabwe-born Grobbelaar at his home in Hampshire, Southern England, shortly before 0700 GMT and took him to the local station for questioning.

Wimbledon goalkeeper Hans Segers was arrested at his home in Hampshire at the same time.

The detective leading inquiries said other people had also been arrested but declined to give details. First unconfirmed reports said another four people were being held.

No charges have yet been brought.

The arrests follow a four-month investigation into allegations that Grobbelaar, who plays for Southampton, was offered bribes to swing the result of soccer matches for a shadowy group of Asian gamblers.

Police also said Melissa Kassimatis — girlfriend of Aston Villa player John Fashanu — had been arrested

at her London home.

"A number of people have been arrested, there are connections with the football world," detective Chief Inspector Ron Davies told BBC radio.

He said Grobbelaar was arrested "on suspicion of being involved in a conspiracy to defraud that relates to allegations of corruption involving football leagu-

es."

Asked whether the flamboyant goalkeeper would be formally charged on Tuesday, Davis said "I am not prepared to speculate on the outcome of what happens today."

Grobbelaar, 37, has strenuously denied the charges and has carried on playing for Southampton and for his national side Zimbabwe.

The newspaper accused him of accepting a £40,000 (\$64,000) bribe to "throw" a Liverpool match with Newcastle in November 1993. Liverpool lost the match 3-0.

Grobbelaar, English soccer's most successful goalkeeper, won almost every honour in the game with Liverpool including six League titles, three FA Cup winners' medals and the European Cup in 1984.

The arrests marked the latest blow to the image of English soccer, which has suffered a series of scandals this season.

Manchester United striker Eric Cantona has been suspended until next October for his flying kick on a taunting Crystal Palace spectator. Cantona and teammate Paul Ince have both been charged with assault in the incident and face court appearance March 23.

Chelsea and England midfiel-

der Dennis Wise was sentenced to three months in jail Monday for assaulting a 65-year-old taxi driver. He was

asked whether the flamboyant goalkeeper would be formally charged on Tuesday, Davis said "I am not prepared to speculate on the outcome of what happens today."

The charges, which first surfaced in a British newspaper last November, relate to Grobbelaar's 13-year career with Liverpool.

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File photo of English football's best-known goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar who was arrested Tuesday on match-fixing allegations (AP photo)

freed on bail pending an appeal.

George Graham was fired as Arsenal manager last

month and charged with misconduct by the FA for allegedly receiving under-the-table transfer payments.

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Soccer on an uneven pitch — an Asian tradition

HONG KONG (AFP) — Gambling on soccer matches is virtually a pastime in itself in Southeast Asia where betting syndicates are said to have tempted several players

in Europe. A Far East syndicate is said to be at the centre of the activities that led to the arrests of star English goalkeepers Bruce Grobbelaar

and Hans Segers on Tuesday as part of a bribery inquiry.

News of the arrests brought little comment from the Asian football authorities who are busy trying to handle corruption on a vast scale.

More than 120 players in Malaysia have been arrested and most banished to internal exile. Czech player Michael Varmi fled Singapore where he faces charges over match fixing. A FIFA registered re-

feree has already been tried there.

Betting on soccer in Malaysia and Singapore is said to be worth tens of millions of dollars a year.

The Asian Football Confederation has known about it for years but says it has been powerless to anything. AFC general secretary, Peter Velappan, said at the time the Grobbelaar allegations

were first made in a British newspaper that he would not be surprised if they are just the tip of the iceberg."

The organisation is very sophisticated and wide-ranging. Bets are made not just on the result of a match.

Gamblers put money on when the first goal is scored, the first yellow card shown and the half-time score. There are even multipliers linking all the different de-

tails.

"It is a vast operation and a very social thing," said one Asian soccer official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"Everyone knows where they can place a bet. It is just a telephone call away."

Malaysia sources explained the system. "There are plenty of matches where you know one side is stronger than the other and is bound to win," said one.

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Participate in negotiations with national counterparts to develop, implement and periodically review the country programme. Develop programme plans and budgets, manage programme implementation and monitor its progress and performance. Prepare situation analyses, programme strategy documents, annual and periodic reports. Coordinate with counterparts in other international and non-governmental organisations. Undertake frequent field visits to project sites in Jordan, and occasional missions outside Jordan. Participate in childrelated conferences, meetings and working groups.

Minimum qualifications: Post graduate degree in Social Development Field or other relevant field e.g. Public Health, Education, Urban Communications. Seven to 10 years of relevant working experience in either government, non-governmental organisation, research or academic institution including social planning, programme management and appraisal. Fluency in English and Arabic with strong written skills. Computer skills (advanced Word Processing, Graphics, Lotus spread sheets) an advantage.

Please send detailed resume, in English, quoting reference No/95/01 to:

**Operations Officer,
UNICEF Area Office,
P.O. Box 511721,
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St Petersburg to bid for 2004 Olympics

ST PETERSBURG (R) — St Petersburg, venue of the 1994 Goodwill Games, is planning a bid to host the 2004 Summer Olympics.

"St Petersburg is ready to stage out only the Summer Olympics, but the winter, fall, spring and any other ones as well," stressed Russian Olympic Committee spokeswoman Svetlana Smirnova.

"We will formally submit an application to the International Olympic Committee within the next two months."

The city, Russia's former home to the Tsars, joins 13 other cities which have said they want to host the 28th summer Olympics. Cape Town, Istanbul, San Juan and Seville have already submitted formal applications.

Moscow hosted the Summer Games in 1980, although athletes from many countries boycotted the event in protest at the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Russia's Black Sea resort of Sochi applied to host the 2002 Winter Olympics, but the town, better known as a summer vacation centre for Soviet-era leaders than as a winter sports centre, did not make it on to the shortlist of four candidate cities.

"Ever since Sochi fell off the list, St Petersburg has got very excited about applying and keeping Russia's hope alive," said Yelena Kalinovskaya of the St Petersburg mayor's sports committee.

St Petersburg spent \$2 million to remodel its Soviet-era sports facilities for the third Goodwill Games last year, the biggest international sporting event to be held in Russia since the Soviet Union fell apart in 1991.

Several problems in this traditionally cold, breezy city provoked charges that St Petersburg was ill-prepared to stage a high-profile sports event.

About 65,000 athletes, organisers and tourists turned out for the internationally televised event, packing the city's streets and leaving people scrambling for flights through its international airport.

"Lillehammer was a stick in the woods when it bid for the 1992 Winter Olympics but then they spent eight years building the facilities they needed," Smirnova said. "If they can do it, so can we."

The IOC will select the winner in September 1997.

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Faisali lose again in Cairo

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's Al Faisali thus wrapped up their participation with three defeats after having lost 1-0 to Egyptian champions Al Ahli and Qatar's Al Arabi.

Al Faisali thus wrapped up their participation with three defeats after having lost 1-0 to Egyptian champions Al Ahli and Qatar's Al Arabi.

Five minutes into the second half, Al Mustaqbal's Abu Baker added the fourth goal when Al Faisali's Walid Mahmood, a replacement goalie for the injured Anis Shafiq, dropped the ball as he jumped to save a powerful shot.

Al Faisali again replaced their goalie with Ali Mahmood, a newcomer from Al Wihdat this season.

Although Al Faisali had lost their first two matches, the team had appeared in good form and were highly praised by Egyptian media especially after they only conceded one goal to the powerful Egyptian host team.

However Al Faisali displayed the exact opposite in their match against Al Mustaqbal in which Al Faisali's defence seemed at a loss and allowed their opponents to score easily.

The team lacked the efforts of key striker Jirayes Tadros who sat out the match with an aggravated injury. Subhi Suleiman and Jamal Ahu Abed lost some chances but the Tunisian team totally dominated the match and missed some easy shots of their own.

Karim Qarawi opened scoring in the 7th minute, but Al Faisali's Firas Al Khalil netted his team's equaliser and their only goal in the championship sevem minutes later.

Al Faisali were heartened after the goal and Subhi Suleiman's powerful shot missed the goal by inches.

Tapie trial resumes

VALENCIENNES, (AFP) — Jean-Jacques Eydile, the alleged go-between told a court here on Tuesday that Bernard Tapie had not ordered the match-fixing which secured Olympique Marseille's fifth successive French league title in 1993.

"To my knowledge he didn't know about it," the former Marseille player said after proceedings resumed following a clash between Tapie and his former general manager and co-accused Jean-Pierre Bernes.

Bernes told the court on Monday he had followed Tapie's orders when he and Eydile offered three Valenciennes' players 200,000 francs (\$40,000) each to throw the match.

Presiding judge Bernard Langlade had cleared the court after Bernes' lawyer Gilbert Collard accused Tapie of threatening his client.

Tapie, 52, faces two years' jail and a 200,000 franc (\$40,000) fine for bribery and three years' jail and a 20,000 franc fine for interfering with witnesses.

The other defendants are former Valenciennes' players Christophe Robert and Argentina's 1986 and 1990 World Cup star Jorge Buschaga. Robert's wife, Marie-Christine, is charged with complicity.

Tapie is also charged with trying to make the then Valenciennes coach Boro Princic.

It would appear Eydile's only chance was to find West with a single club. However, East, another defendant, served his partner holding a doublet with the closed hand to run the jack of spades. Declares came to hand with the ace of hearts to run the jack of spades, leading to East's ace of diamonds at the crossroads.

Let's play it from East's perspective. Outside the circle of spades, the obvious tricks for the defense are the ace-queen of diamonds. Since there are no more tricks to be had from the plain suits, the declarer would have to find the trump in trumps. So, after the closed hand to run the jack of spades, declarer virtually announced that West had the queen of diamonds. Declares had to find the trump in trumps, the lead to the second trick would have been a low trump front dummy.

With a quick way back to hand, and realising a club would be overruled by West, Eydile would play as quickly as possible by cashing the king of spades in the hope of dropping the queen-down one.



European Champions Cup Roundup

LONDON (R) — Analysis of Wednesday's European Champions' Cup quarter-final second leg matches:

Ajax Amsterdam (Netherlands) V. Hajduk Split (Croatia)

First leg: Hajduk 0 Ajax 0

Previous meetings: 1993-94 — Cup Winners' Cup first round, first leg Hajduk 1 Ajax 0; second leg Hajduk 6 Hajduk 0.

Ajax coach Louis Van Gaal has named a man squad after doubts about the fitness of players Patrick Kluivert (ankle injury) and Mark Overmars (thigh strain).

Hajduk striker Ivica Mornar and skipper Branislav Vulic are out with injury, while defender Darko Butorovic is suspended.

Benfica (Portugal) V. AC Milan (Italy) First leg: AC Milan 2 Benfica 0 Previous meetings: 1992-93 — Champions' Cup final in London; Milan 2 Benfica 1; 1990 — Champions' Cup final in Vienna; Benfica 0 Benfica face the defending champions after annihilating 1-0 home defeat by struggling Vicente on Sunday, leaving them trailing leaders Porto by eight points.

Argentine striker Claudio Caniggia returns their attack after illness, but Brazilian defender Carlos Mozer is suspended.

Milan coach Fabio Capello rested captain Franco Baresi, Marcel Desailly and Dejan Stankovic for the 1-0 win over Padova.

But they are certain to return, leaving only a key absentee, suspended midfielder Dejan Albertini.

IFK Gothenburg (Sweden) V. Bayern Munich (Germany) First leg: Bayern Munich 0 IFK Gothenburg 0 No previous meetings.

Bayern go into the match on the back of a

dismal showing in the league. Club president Franz Beckenbauer described their performance in the 1-1 draw against Duisburg as "pathetic."

And he said: "I won't accept the team were saving themselves for Gothenburg, because anyone who thinks we can win the European Cup is dreaming. Our chances are 100,000-to-one."

Swiss midfieler Alain Sutter could return after injury, but Christian Ziegler could be out with knee ligament problems.

Gothenburg winger Jesper Blomqvist has been passed fit following a flu virus.

* Paris St. Germain (France) V. Barcelona (Spain) First leg: Barcelona 1 Paris St. Germain 1 No previous meetings

Match Analysis

Paris SG coach Luis Fernandez will opt for an all-out attack at the Parc Des Princes.

He has confirmed that David Ginola will partner Liberia's George Weah in attack "to an offensive looking team."

Brazil's Valdo and Rai will support them as attacking midfielders.

His main problem is in defence, with Brazilian libero Ricardo injured and Alain Roche suspended.

Barcelona suffered a 2-0 league defeat by struggling Atletico Madrid on Saturday, but coach Johan Cruyff said: "This will not affect us. In Paris we will be playing in a different competition, on a different pitch and with a different line-up."

Romanian international midfieler Gheorghe Hagi will be in the Barcelona squad for the first time since injuring a leg muscle four weeks ago.

omba all set to take town

NBA ROUNDUP

WASHINGTON (AFP) — National Basketball Association results and standings after Monday's games.

RESULTS

Washington	106	Charlotte	103
Houston	97	Atlanta	86
L.A. Lakers	93	Indiana	91
Dallas	130	Golden State	125

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Orlando*	48	14	.774	—
New York	39	21	.650	8
New Jersey	25	37	.403	23
Boston	24	37	.393	23½
Miami	23	38	.377	24½
Philadelphia	17	44	.279	30½
Washington	17	44	.279	30½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Charlotte	39	23	.629	—
Indiana	37	24	.607	1½
Cleveland	35	26	.574	3½
Atlanta	31	31	.500	8
Chicago	31	31	.500	8
Detroit	23	38	.377	15½
Milwaukee	23	39	.371	16

Western Conference

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Utah	46	16	.742	—
San Antonio	41	18	.695	3½
Houston	37	24	.607	8½
Denver	29	32	.475	16½
Dallas	23	36	.399	21½
Minnesota	17	45	.274	29

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Phoenix	46	16	.742	—
Seattle	41	19	.683	4
L.A. Lakers	38	23	.623	7½
Portland	33	27	.550	12
Sacramento	30	30	.500	15
Golden State	19	42	.311	26½
L.A. Clippers	13	50	.206	33½

* Clinched playoff berth

Austrian Airlines Reception

Austrian Airlines is holding a reception for travel agents on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 13/14/15 March 1995 at Abu-Alabdah Centre in which a bowling championship will be included and prizes that has been received from different commercial companies will be distributed to the winners.

On this occasion, Austrian Airlines would like to thank the following companies on their generosity: 1. Austrian Tourist Board, 2. Petra Travel & Tourism Company, 3. Issa Murad Company, 4. Astra Establishment, 5. Coca Cola Company.

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Sweet revenge as Sampras defeats Agassi

INDIAN WELLS (AFP) — World number one Pete Sampras came up with big serves on big points here Monday to beat number two Andre Agassi 7-5, 6-3, 7-5 in the final of the ATP Champions Cup.

The victory was a measure of revenge for Sampras, who lost to Agassi in four sets in the final of the Australian Open. And it slowed Agassi's march toward Sampras' number one ranking.

He stretched his career record over Agassi to 8-6. Agassi who had lost only one of his 20 previous matches this year, and had not dropped a set in this tournament, could not get the better of Sampras' serve.

Sampras blasted 18 aces and 28 service winners.

"If there is one shot that kind of did it for me it was my serve. I kind of live and die by it, and I served a lot of huge serves at 15-30, 30-all. That was really the difference."

Fittingly, he won the match with an ace on his first match point after two hours and 12 minutes.

"He served huge from start to finish," Agassi said. "I had him love-30 and he held with his first serves. Then I had him 15-30 a couple of times where he ended the game with three first serves. That is rough."

Sampras also returned well, volleyed well, and matched Agassi at his own baseline speed, deep, accurate groundstrokes.

"I didn't quite feel like I was dictating play like I normally do from the ground," Agassi said. "I even started coming in a little bit more because I was frustrated with the fact that I wasn't as sharp as I usually am."

He admitted his father's open heart surgery, scheduled for Tuesday, was on his mind. But he refused to blame the loss on that distraction.

Pete Sampras

Leading money winners

7. Wayne Ferreira (S. Africa)	\$249,439
6. Paul Haarhuis (Neth)	\$241,823
9. Stefan Edberg (Sweden)	\$217,851
10. Thomas Enqvist (Sweden)	\$211,898
11. Michael Chang (U.S.)	\$202,210
12. Martin Damm (Czech Rep)	\$204,818
13. Magnus Larsson (Sweden)	\$196,877
14. Todd Martin (U.S.)	\$195,756
15. Grant Connell (Canada)	\$169,455

Sampras broke Agassi again in the fourth game of the second set to lead 3-1.

Agassi parried a set point in the ninth game, but Sampras won it with an ace in the 10th.



Lotus reappears as faint shadow of championship-winning team

LONDON (AFP) — Team Lotus will reappear on the Grand Prix circuits of the world this year, but only as a faint shadow of the team that won 13 World Championships in the 1960s and 70s.

The historic Lotus logo and a green stripe will feature on the cars from one of the newest teams in the sport, Pacific, starting only its second year in Formula One.

But Lotus' new owner can foresee a future in which the Formula One team, second only to Ferrari in fame and longevity, might again compete directly for the Championships. Briton David Hunt bought compete directly for the Championships. Briton David Hunt bought the ruins of Team Lotus

when it collapsed under "towering debts," estimated at some £10 million, late last year.

The younger brother of the late World Champion James Hunt and a sometime Formula 1 racer himself, Hunt is now a successful businessman.

He joked recently that he had become rich "by avoiding motor racing, and now I've made the cardinal mistake of coming back in."

He said his return was motivated by concern at the possible complete disappearance of the team, founded by the late Colin Chapman, one of the great innovators of the sport.

"Team Lotus is the second oldest name in Grand Prix racing, it's part of the Grand Prix 'circus,' Hunt said..

Pacific is "unquestionably the most likely team outside the top five to be a significant force over the next years," said Hunt.

Baggio rules himself out

TURIN (R) — Roberto Baggio on Monday ruled himself out of Italy's next two soccer internationals pending a return to full fitness.

The Juventus striker announced his unavailability for the key European championship qualifiers against Estonia and Ukraine towards the end of the month despite returning to club soccer with a vengeance after a three-month layoff with a knee injury.

"I am standing down from the national squad," Baggio, 27, told reporters.

"It's a normal decision because I've been out of the game for three months and I'm still not back to peak form," he said.

Baggio, who fired Italy to an impressive start to their campaign for a place in the 1996 European Championship finals, lying third in group four with just four points from three matches.

AFTER YEARS OF ABSENCE

CHIVAS REGAL

12

Clinton to block oil deal with Iran

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton said Monday he will block a U.S. oil company's subsidiary deal to develop two Gulf oil fields for Iran because the arrangement undermines his efforts to crack down on Tehran.

Mr. Clinton, in a statement issued by the White House, said he would soon issue an executive order barring U.S. citizens or companies from entering into contracts for the financing, supervision or management of oil development projects in Iran.

"We need to send a clear and unequivocal message to Iran: There cannot be normal relations until Iran's unacceptable behaviour changes," White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry said in the statement about the deal by a subsidiary of Conoco, a Houston-based oil company.

Aides said an executive order was being drafted but may not be signed for several days.

The deal was the first involving a U.S. oil company and Iran since 1979, when the United States banned commercial trade with Iran in the wake of the seizure of the

U.S. embassy in Tehran by militants. It came under sharp criticism by the State Department after it was announced last week.

White House officials said Mr. Clinton signed off on the policy Tuesday morning.

The Houston Post, the Texas newspaper that first reported the administration's plans, said some officials suggested that Conoco asked for an executive order blocking the deal by a Dutch subsidiary to provide a graceful way out.

Mr. McCurry said the administration "worked cooperatively" with Conoco executives in formulating the policy. "The president appreciates the willingness of Conoco to work with us on this important issue," Mr. McCurry said.

Jim Felder, a Conoco spokesman, said earlier he was unaware of a company request for an executive order.

The administration has said the Conoco deal runs counter to U.S. policy to isolate and punish Iran for supporting "terrorism" and trying to develop nuclear weapons.

On Tuesday, Mr. McCurry made those two allegations against Tehran and accused the Iranian government of undermining the Middle East peace process. He said the international community has tried to bring Iran into line with economic sanctions.

"To allow U.S. companies to finance or manage the development of Iran's (oil) resources would contribute to Iran's productive capacity and its economic and financial strength," Mr. McCurry said.

He said the United States would continue to review other economic measures with respect to Iran.

The deal also faced opposition from three influential board members of Conoco's parent company, Dupont, the New York Times reported Tuesday.

"I think our focus was on the business arrangement. Perhaps we misjudged the considerations on the policy interpretations," he said. "We're trying to work through that now."

In order to comply with federal law, Conoco arranged the deal as a contract between the National Iranian Oil Company and Conoco Inc. N.Y., a Dutch affiliate.

Edgar M. Bronfman also is president of the World Jewish Congress.

Mr. Seagram owns 24.2 per cent of Dupont and therefore controls a fourth of the votes on the Dupont board.

Seagram spokesman Chris Totalli told the Times that Edgar M. Bronfman could not be reached for comment, but added that "the board would never act inconsistent with U.S. policy."

Dupont spokesman Mike Ricciuto told the Times the board would act soon on the deal. The Times did not cite specific sources in reporting on the Bronfmans' expected vote, which the newspaper said made approval unlikely.

Mr. Felder said the negative reaction to the deal was a surprise.

"I think our focus was on the business arrangement. Perhaps we misjudged the considerations on the policy interpretations," he said. "We're trying to work through that now."

The King who was accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, was received at the celebration site by Prime Minister and Defence Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Abdul Hafez Mirai.

COLUMN

Danish doctor, African group win Population Awards

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Danish head of the International Planned Parenthood Federation and an African group fighting against female circumcision were named winners of the 1995 U.N. Population Award. The citations are given annually by a vote from a committee on population made up of delegates from various member states and headed by Netherlands Ambassador Nicholas Bielman, who announced the winners. One award went to the Inter-African Committee of Traditional Practices, an Ethiopian-based organization which has branches in 23 African nations. Founded in 1984, it seeks to fight practices harmful to women and children such as female genital mutilation and the forced feeding of women and girls in countries where weight is considered attractive. Mr. Bielman said the group also tries to promote other traditional practices such as prolonged breast feeding. Circumcision on young girls is practiced in about 26 African countries with Djibouti, Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Mali in the forefront. The other award went to Dr. Halldor Mahler, secretary-general of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, for his leadership of that group as well as his activities while he headed the U.N. World Health Organization from 1973 to 1978.

Jordan backs Lebanese stand

FOREIGN MINISTER Abdur Karim Al Khariti on Tuesday sent a message of support to his Lebanese counterpart Fariz Bouez voicing Jordan's solidarity with Lebanon on the 17th anniversary of the first Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon in 1978.

The message was presented to Lebanese Ambassador in Amman William Habib in a meeting held to stress the Kingdom's support.

Mr. Khariti's message also backed demands by Lebanon for implementing U.N. Security Council Resolution 425, stressing the unity and integrity of Lebanon.

Both Muslims and Christians observed a general strike across Lebanon, apart from in the "security zone." Schools, shops and offices were closed, with only banks, pharmacies and newsagents opening for business.

As Israeli warplanes patrolled the skies above the Nabatiyah region, demonstrators burnt Israeli flags to cries of "Death to Israel" and "Death to America."

"We entered the talks in Madrid after receiving assurances from the United States guaranteeing our legitimate rights to the implementation of (U.N.) Resolution 425 calling for Israel's withdrawal from our occupied land unconditionally," Mr. Hrawi said.

"We beseech the sponsors of peace to fulfil their pledges to the Madrid conference does not remain an event with no aim or a headline in the archives of history," Mr. Hrawi told parliament.

As Israeli warplanes patrolled the skies above the Nabatiyah region, demonstrators burnt Israeli flags to cries of "Death to Israel" and "Death to America."

"The demands by the Lebanese brethren are legitimate and their calls to implement the principles of international legitimacy, represented in Resolution 425 in all its aspects ... constitute an important element for achieving a joint and lasting peace to the region and will help progress on other tracks of the peace negotiations," Mr. Khariti said.

Lebanon observes strike, calls for end to Israeli occupation

NABATTIYEH (Agencies) — The government held an unprecedented meeting in South Lebanon on Tuesday in a show of solidarity against Israel's occupation of a border strip, as Israeli shells landed nearby fields.

The target of the training was the town of Nabatiyah, just a few kilometres from Israeli positions, to mark the 17th anniversary of the first Israeli invasion of the south on March 14, 1978.

Israeli shells fell on nearby fields of the unprecedented cabinet meeting in south Lebanon, following guerrilla attacks on Israel's self-declared "security zone" along the border.

As Israeli warplanes patrolled the skies above the Nabatiyah region, demonstrators burnt Israeli flags to cries of "Death to Israel" and "Death to America."

Both Muslims and Christians observed a general strike across Lebanon, apart from in the "security zone."

Schools, shops and offices were closed, with only banks, pharmacies and newsagents opening for business.

Church was stopped for three minutes during which yellow ribbons were unfurled to remember the 300 Lebanese and Palestinians being held in an Israeli jail in South Lebanon.

The thud of Israeli artillery

competed with cries of "Allahu Akbar" as shells landed on fields in the villages of Kfar Teinat, Frun and Ghadrich.

An Israeli warplane dropped an air-to-ground missile near Ain Qan, in the Iqlim Al Tufah heights, a Hizbollah stronghold.

In Beirut, President Elias Hrawi appealed to the United States and Russia to work to end the Israeli occupation, saying Lebanon had joined peace talks with Israel launched in Madrid in 1991 after receiving U.S. assurances of an Israeli withdrawal.

"We entered the talks in

Madrid after receiving assurances from the United States guaranteeing our legitimate rights to the implementation of (U.N.) Resolution 425 calling for Israel's withdrawal from our occupied land unconditionally," Mr. Hrawi said.

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Jordanian depositors with BCCI appeal to Major

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanians who had deposits with the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) on Tuesday renewed an appeal to British Prime Minister John Major to intervene to ensure that a speedy solution is found to their dilemma.

A spokesman for the 130 depositors, whose accounts with BCCI stood at around \$100 million when the bank was taken over by European monetary authorities in July 1991, also compared the British government's handling of the BCCI fiasco with that of the Barings Bank two weeks ago and called for an end to "this discrimination."

Odeh Mashini, a Jordanian businessman speaking on behalf of a Depositors' Protection Association, said: "In the Barings case, it took the Bank of England and the British government less than 48 hours to solve the problem even without anyone guaranteeing the depositors' right."

"We recall that in the BCCI case, no one was willing to take up an offer by the ruling family of the United Arab Emirates to ensure the bank's continuity and protect the interests of the depositors."

In a letter addressed to Mr. Major, who arrived here Tuesday evening, and forwarded through the British ambassador in Amman, the BCCI depositors said they

... the prime minister of the "suffering we are still facing since 1991 regarding our life savings."

"The reason we chose a U.K. bank was due to the trust we had in the British system...." said the letter, a

copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times. "However, what happened to BCCI and the subsequent ogaed the assurances we were getting regarding the U.K. as being a safe haven."

The letter accused the owners and liquidators of BCCI of holding "our life savings hostage" and of "dawdling to settle the matter..."

Addressing Mr. Major, the letter said: "We believe you are interested in maintaining the super status of the U.K. Therefore, please use your good offices to speed up the fair settlement process of the BCCI case... in the same professional super fast manner the Baring Bank crisis was handled and settled."

Mr. Mashini told the Jordan Times that the reasoning behind the European and British authorities rejected compromise offers to salvage the BCCI and insisted on liquidating it in 1991 was that "they decided BCCI represented Islam and Arabs and that Europe did not need such a bank."

"Little consideration was given to the fact that the man who was offering to salvage the bank was the head of state of one of the richest countries in the world and had the resources to fulfil his commitment," Mr. Mashini said, in an obvious reference to UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahyan.

Most of the Jordanian depositors involved in the dispute were banking with BCCI branches in the United Kingdom, France and Cyprus.

"There were about 80 accounts representing 130 people and the total amount of deposits was around \$100 million," Mr. Mashini said.

"We are afraid that the proposed settlement — of which I hear unofficially that we could be paid 20 per cent of our deposits — could be a manoeuvre that might deprive us of our rights," he said.

Filipino mayor found guilty of rape, murder

MANILA (R) — A Manila court erupted in cheers Tuesday as a Philippine town mayor and six aides were convicted of savagely raping and killing a female student and murdering her male companion.

Cajauan Mayor Antonio Sanchez and the six others were each sentenced to life in prison for the killings, which shocked the nation in 1993. They denied the charges. "I am innocent, even if lightning strikes me now," Mr. Sanchez screamed as he was led from the packed courtroom at the end of the closely watched 18-month trial.

The seven were convicted of plotting the rape and murder of Eileen Samanta, 21, and the murderer, Alan Gomez, 19, both students at the University of the Philippines in Los Baños, south of Manila. Mr. Sanchez, mayor of nearby Calauan, will not be eligible for parole for 30 years.

U.S., Israel conduct joint exercises in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — U.S. and Israeli forces are conducting joint land, sea and air exercises in Israel this month, including manoeuvres in the Naqab desert, officials said Monday.

One U.S. marine was shot to the hand Sunday and brought to Soroka hospital in Beersheba.

Over the next three weeks, U.S. Sixth Fleet ships and American aircraft will participate in the exercises along with about 7,500 U.S. troops, said U.S. embassy spokesman Richard Scorsa.

Combined exercises and joint manoeuvres have taken place periodically since Israel and the United States signed a strategic cooperation agreement in 1982. But details are rarely released, except for medical evacuation exercises.

No overall scenario was defined for the exercise, according to U.S. and Israeli officials. The manoeuvres were "not related to any fea-

ture of the real world," said a U.S. statement.

The low profile was apparently designed to prevent protests from Arab countries.

For Israel, the manoeuvres were seen as a boost.

"Militarily, there is no doubt that this sort of joint cooperation gives visible strength and content to the strategic backdrop the United States is affording Israel. It is a boost for Israeli technology, as well," said Amram Mitzna, mayor of the city of Haifa and a retired major general.

Haifa is a major service port for the U.S. Sixth Fleet. Exercises got underway over the weekend despite a strike at Israel's shipyards in Haifa that initially threatened to delay the manoeuvres.

The exercises collocated with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region, but the U.S.

KABUL (Agencies) — The Afghan Taliban movement launched an infantry attack against troops loyal to President Burhanuddin Rabbani on the southern frontlines Tuesday, gaining a hill-top but losing a number of fighters, military sources said.

"There are at least 30 dead

Talibans lying below us," pro-Rabbani commander Gul Haider told AFP.

Based on a ridge line some 15 kilometres from Kabul on the road leading to the Taliban's headquarters of Charashay, Mr. Haider was seen directing mortar fire at the Talibans.

At the same time, massive pro-Rabbani reinforcements moved up for a counter-attack.

A huge column of Russian-made T-62 and T-55 tanks, BMP armoured fighting vehicles, and truck-loads of heavily armed uniformed soldiers were seen waiting for the order to start the offensive.

Pro-Rabbani troops came under accurate small-arm and mortar fire from gunners from an opposite ridge gained in the Taliban's two-to-three-kilometre advance. "They gained some ground

but we'll push them back soon," said Mr. Haider in his bunker.

Mazari body identified

The body of opposition Hezbollah faction leader Abdul Ali Mazari has been identified, a rival faction and government minister said.

The leader of the pro-government of Harakat-e-Islami said Mohammad Ali Jawad, who is also the planning minister, said the Talibans delivered nine bodies of captured Hezbollah officials to Harakat-e-Islami's headquarters in Ghazni province early on Tuesday.

Mr. Jawad said one of the bodies was that of Mazari, while three were senior members of his staff. The other five could not be identified.

"We still don't know how they died," Mr. Jawad said.

"Although we now have the bodies, it is still too early to say exactly what happened to them."

The Talibans captured Mazari and his followers on Saturday when they occupied Mazari's stronghold in southwest Kabul. A Western journalist photographed Mazari bound hand

and foot at Talibans' base in Charashay.

The Talibans said they wanted to fly Mazari to a safer location away from Charashay which was under attack by government forces.

According to a Taliban account, either Mazari or one of his colleagues managed to seize a gun while they were in the air and the helicopter was forced to make an emergency landing.

They said the woman, Basma Al Jamal, 30, was injured and taken to hospital in Hebron.

Palestinians said Israeli soldiers had stood watch over the settlers, apparently from nearby Kiryat Arba settlement, as they operated their machines and did not interfere when they beat the woman.

The woman's husband, Daoud Jamal, told Reuters he was out in the area during the incident. He said that when he found out about the attack he called police forces, run by Israel in the still-occupied area of the West Bank, but they ignored him.

The area is a hotbed of Jewish-Palestinian confrontation. In February 1994, settler Baruch Goldstein of Kiryat Arba shot dead more than 30 Palestinians as they prayed in Hebron's Al Ibrahim Mosque

... the prime minister of the "suffering we are still facing since 1991 regarding our life savings."

"The reason we chose a U.K. bank was due to the trust we had in the British system...." said the letter, a